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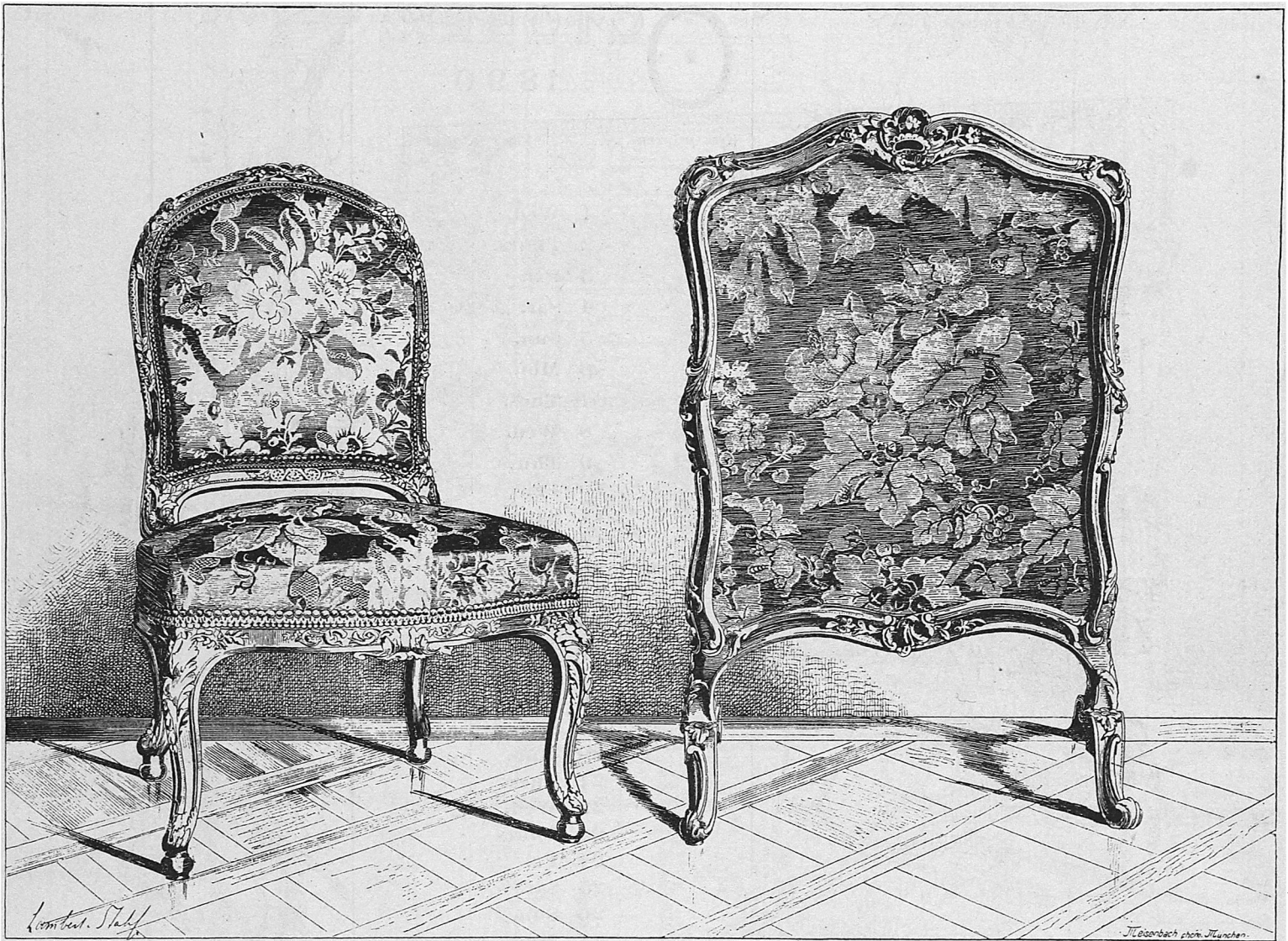
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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

these papers produces an effect not to be distinguished from carved ivory, and while such papers are to be had at low prices there is no reason why every one owning a house should not surround themselves with such artistic productions.

It is chiefly due to the energy of Mr. Ball, himself, that the firm has made such wonderful progress during the last few years, for all work, no matter how trivial, has his personal superintendence and the foremen in charge of the different departments are held to strict accountability. While Mr. Ball attends to the entire business management Mr. Dusenberry sees that the firm is supplied with all the "sinews of war." A large staff of first-class salesmen are constantly in attendance and workmen are constantly employed in executing important contracts, not only in the city, but all over the United States. The firm does not only attend to the business of wall paper decoration and fresco painting, but are also interior remodelers and undertake contracts in furnishing houses with every article in the way of house furniture at present in vogue.

brilliant colors, and a never failing vivacity of expression to his personages that delighted the gay spirit of the Parisians. They were delighted with his imaginary nymphs and swains and his sketches of pastoral and rural life. In his compositions were fountains throwing up their waters in sparkles over drooping branches, mimiac cascaded bowers and wide gravelly walks; his figures, grouped with exceeding taste, were given living movements and were dressed in the brightest colors, united in perfect harmony. There was an easy curve in his figures; his shepherdesses were *coquet*; his nymphs were as much below the forbidding majesty of goddesses as they were above the hoyden awkwardness of French country girls. Was ever house decoration in painting so glorified! His compositions, vigorous and broad, yet not deficient in delicacy, provided for the interiors that contained them attractions which were a continuous source of pleasure, serving to show the value of pictorial painting for interiors when carried out by genius. Watteau in time exchanged decorative house painting for painting on canvass, but his work



FRENCH CHAIR AND FIRE-SCREEN—STYLE XV. (1715-1774—ROCOCO STYLE.)

### AN OLD TIME HOUSE DECORATOR.

EVERY one has heard of the French painter Watteau of the reign of Louis XIV famous for his graceful and picturesque groups of glittering personages in the costume of the period dancing on the turf or listening to music under broad trees, or assisting at open air fêtes—productions now scattered through the public and private galleries of Europe and held as treasures, but few are aware that the artist was first of all a pictorial house painter. Coming to Paris from Valenciennes he engages himself under a master who employed him to paint fairies on ceilings and to provide stage scenery. He next joined a dozen young professional slaves of a picture manufacturer, his work including monks, virgins, infants, flowers, landscapes, grotesque figures, fauns, satyrs, all the angels of heaven and all the legendary saints. This was a fine preparation when he set up for himself, to furnish pictorial decorations for the panels of wainscoted apartments of aristocratic mansions. His charming artistic treatment made him at once famous; to fine grouping he added

in the former far exceeds in quality and value, that of his immediate successors who covered whole acres of walls with frescoed mythological and other scenes, expressive of exaggerated sentiment, but in which any true traces of nature were rare.

AN important element of value in gold decoration in addition to its enlivening brilliance is its sympathetic quality. Its sensitiveness to adjoining colors allows it to act as a harmonising adjuster of tints and tones. It reflects softly and with a subdued warmth of tone the colors of a room, thus imperceptibly blending part with part. In color designs all decorators know that with the addition of gold it is easier to bring a number of colors into harmony. The employment of gold is the the most ready means for effecting what is known as the recall of color, an indispensable part of any pictorial and decorative scheme and it does this with so much play of light and dark that it excites somewhat of the interest we experience in watching the changes of color on sea and land.